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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	WHA-00	DS-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TEST-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/006W

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O 252050Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1503
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
DIRONDCP WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 QUITO 001512

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, WHA, WHA/AND, WHA/PDA
DIRONDCP FOR PA
EMBASSIES FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, KIRC, KPAO, EC
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: VENEZUELAN CRISIS: QUITO
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1. SUMMARY: COLUMNISTS IN ALL THREE OF ECUADOR'S TOP DAILIES CONTINUE TO SEE THE RECENT COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA AS A HARBINGER OF WORSE THINGS TO COME. CARLOS JIJON CLAIMED IN QUITO'S "HOY" THAT THE DOS "WAS DELIVERING FALSE INFORMATION TO THE U.S. CONGRESS TO JUSTIFY . . . A BIGGER BUDGET FOR THE COLOMBIAN WAR," (PARA 2) AND REPEATED HIS ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. HAD "ORCHESTRATED" THE COUP IN VENEZUELA. AN EDITORIAL IN "EL COMERCIO" PREDICTED THE "RETURN OF TOUGH GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT," (PARA 3), WHILE A COLUMN IN "EL UNIVERSO" OPINED THAT LATIN AMERICA WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY "MAINTAINING ITS NATIONAL STATES" GIVEN U.S.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2005 200400109

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PRESSURE. END SUMMARY.

2. "(LATIN) AMERICA IN FLAMES," AN OPINION COLUMN
(04/25) BY CARLOS JIJON IN QUITO'S CENTER-LEFT
(INFLUENTIAL) "HOY" (CIRC. 25,000)

QUOTE: "LAST SATURDAY A PRESS RELEASE BROKE THE NEWS
THAT AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED GUERRILLAS FROM COLOMBIA'S
FARC, THE MAJORITY ADOLESCENTS, DIED DURING THE
MILITARY SHELLING OF A REBEL CAMP. . .

"WHAT IMPRESSED ME THE MOST, HOWEVER, WAS THE WAY IN
WHICH THE MEDIA BROKE THE NEWS. . . . A HUMANITARIAN
CATASTROPHE IS HAPPENING IN OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRY
AND HERE NOBODY CAN BE BOTHERED. NEITHER THE
GOVERNMENT, THAT HAS PASSIVELY ACCEPTED THE ROLE
ASSIGNED BY WASHINGTON IN THIS WAR STRATEGY, NOR
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CIVIL SOCIETY, EGOTISTICAL AND BLIND, REALIZE THE
NEED AND THE CONVENIENCE OF ACTIVELY PURSUING PEACE.

"LATIN AMERICA IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES. COLOMBIA'S WAR
IS ACQUIRING THE FEROCITY SHOWN BY THE FORMER
YUGOSLAVIAN REPUBLICS. IN VENEZUELA, PERHAPS AS A
PART OF THE SAME SCHEME, A PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, FRIENDLY
WITH THE FARC AND ALLIED WITH FIDEL CASTRO, RETURNED
TO POWER AFTER BEING OUSTED IN A COUP ORCHESTRATED
FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT

"BUT THE WORST IS HAPPENING IN THE U.S. IT IS
DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE STATEMENT BY RICHARD
ARMITAGE, THE SECOND HIGHEST OFFICER FROM THE U.S.
STATE DEPARTMENT. . . WAS A MISTAKE. THE STATE
DEPARTMENT WAS DELIVERING FALSE INFORMATION TO THE
U.S. CONGRESS TO JUSTIFY THE NEED FOR A BIGGER
BUDGET FOR THE COLOMBIAN WAR, AND THEREFORE WAS
INVOLVING ECUADOR IN IT. THIS ALREADY RESEMBLES
REAGAN'S TENURE. WHICH SAYS A LOT."

3. "ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA, TWO ALERTS," AN
EDITORIAL (04/25) IN QUITO'S LEADING CENTRIST "EL
COMERCIO" (CIRC. 70,000)

QUOTE: "INSTITUTIONS. . . HISTORICALLY ZIGZAG, AND
TODAY WE CONFIRM THEIR WEAKNESS. THE REACTION OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN GROUP AT THE OAS TO THE VENEZUELAN
CASE WAS HEALTHY, BUT THE CONTINENTAL INDIFFERENCE IN
THE FACE OF THE DESPERATION OF THE ARGENTINE NATION

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IS IRRITATING. . . .

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". . . IT MAY BE THE TIME FOR MAJOR LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES . . . TO STOP BEING CATEGORIZED AS BEING THE RESULT OF POPULISM AND CORRUPTION.

". . . MODERNIZATION THAT IS UNFAIR IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND A DEMOCRACY SUSTAINED ON THE BACKS OF THE POOREST WILL BE DESTINED TO A RESOUNDING FAILURE. WE PREDICT THE RETURN OF TOUGH GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT, HOWEVER, AFTER REPRESSION, REVOLUTIONS MIGHT OCCUR, BECAUSE THEY ARE BORN WITHOUT A SCRIPT.

"IN THIS SCENARIO, VENEZUELA AND ARGENTINA ARE NOT ONLY A PROBLEM, BUT ALSO AN ALERT."

4. "I FEEL SORRY," AN OPINION COLUMN (04/24) BY JAVIER PONCE IN GUAYAQUIL'S (AND ECUADOR'S) LEADING CENTER-RIGHT "EL UNIVERSO" (CIRC. 140,000)

QUOTE: "I FELT SO MUCH SORROW LISTENING TO A USG SPOKESPERSON AND TO COLIN POWELL A FEW NIGHTS AGO. THEY AFFIRMED, SERIOUSLY AND WITH A CONDEMNING

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ATTITUDE, THAT PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ DESERVED THE
COUP AND THAT THIS TIME HE OUGHT TO LEARN A LESSON.
WHO ARE THEY TO SAY IT? BUT THE QUESTION DIED IN MY
THROAT. THEY ARE THEY AND IT WOULD BE CANDID TO
WONDER WHAT RIGHT THEY HAVE TO TALK ABOUT US.

"BUT, ABOVE ALL, I FELT SORRY FOR ME, FOR US. I FELT
SORRY FOR LATIN AMERICA, ON THE VERGE OF
GLOBALIZATION, AND OF THE PAINFUL ATTEMPTS AT
MAINTAINING ITS NATIONAL STATES OR FOLLOWING THE
EMPIRE'S PRESCRIPTIONS . . . FOR OUR COUNTRIES."

5. WIRE SERVICE ARTICLES:

- "AMERICA ABLAZE," AN "ANALYSIS" COLUMN BY RAUL O.
GARCES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, PRINTED BY
GUAYAQUIL'S (AND ECUADOR'S) LEADING CENTER-RIGHT "EL
UNIVERSO" (CIRC. 140,000)

MOORE

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